

THE SOUTHERN PROBLEM.

(Continued from page 14.)

capacity. Why imagine the Negro race will perform miracles? I believe in the inherent ability of my people to do just what other people have done and can do, but all Greek scholars were not born saying 'erkomi,' and neither does history show that all races were born at the top of the ladder. The American settlers were here over 300 years before they became free. They were here nearly 400 years before they had a railroad. The Negro has built a railroad in thirty years. The white people were here nearly 500 years before they crossed Pike's Peak and planted their civilization beyond the Rockies. The Negro has gone over there in 25 years and recently we hear of Negro competitors winning first prizes from one of the leading institutions of learning on the Pacific coast. Let us not be discouraged on the one hand, nor become rash on the other. Haste in the economics of nations may make waste, as well as with individuals.

"There are duties which confront us as imperative and binding in their obligations as rights in considering this great question. When a man cries out for his rights, he should never forget his duties. Wellington said to his soldiers on one occasion on the eve of battle, 'Soldiers, England expects every man to do his duty!' So say I to-night, that in this crucial period of our history every Negro is expected to do his duty! There are fifty thousand log cabins in the Southland, in every one of which there are barefoot boys and girls; not only bare of feet, but bare of training—Booker Washingtons, J. C. Prices, Fred. Douglasses and Phillis Wheatleys in embryo—waiting for the school master! 'Full many a gem,' etc. Their condition appeals to us for action. Twenty years hence they will be men and women. What kind of citizens will they make? Shall they grow up into manhood and womanhood with beclouded minds and narrowed souls, or shall they be lifted up into the purer atmosphere of American freemen?

"Looking back to 1503, when Las Casas landed the first Negro slaves in Hispanolia, we behold great and marvelous progress made in the condition of the race since that time. We see it leaping from African barbarism to American Christianity; we see the slave trade abolished; we see the gradual transformation from the African jungle to the sublime privileges of American citizenship—but in spite of all this the zenith of all our hopes can not be realized; the proud capstone of the citadel of our liberty can not be set, until these boys and girls in the log cabins of the Southland are touched with the magic wand of the vanguard of our Twentieth Century civilization. There has been much done for us. In the brief resume heretofore made we are represented as being

homet, let Mahomet go to the mountain. Why sit on the banks of the stream like the men in the fable, waiting for the river to run by, when we can build a bridge, or walk to the ford, or, better still, swim the current? The race needs co-operation. It is understood that we must work and save. To be born an American citizen means that! But after all the working and saving, there must be concerted movement. We have learned that property may give many of the comforts of life, but that alone never gave liberty. Liberty comes through a struggle.

"Let him take who will,
Let him hold who can."

"I believe in contending in the courts, and to do this the race must act in concert

"There are thousands of Negro churches, societies and business organizations, but where is the black Pierpont Morgan who will syndicate them into one engine of gigantic strength that with a long pull, a strong pull, a pull altogether, we may be able to force conditions? We must learn to create conditions. Concert of action is an evidence of intelligence either in nations or individuals. All life, both international, State and individual, is but one vast checkerboard on which a master mind 'moves' his 'men' to resist the advances of the enemy. When the Negro by concert of action can make himself needed and felt, the things he wants can be obtained. The commercial North and the commercial South have combined against the Negro's civil liberty, let the Negro make such a 'move' on the checker board as will 'corner' the combine. As we have seen in the review heretofore made of the slave trade, the Negro was brought from Africa only to meet a condition in the new world. In short, he was needed. The meeting of these conditions as slaves was a conception, not of themselves, but of the white man. The time now has come to meet these conditions by our own planning and for our own welfare. If we can not live in one State, we can live in another, and if we all die away from the tombs of our ancestors, perhaps we shall find just as short a route to either of the eternal resting places of man, as otherwise.

"More self sacrifice and less of display, less of banqueting, and more of contribution to the creation of school houses and industrial enterprises will stand as tremendous weapons of accomplishment in the final evolution of this problem. It was not by throwing feather balls into the air that the giant Hercules learned to hew down massive forest, but by tossing huge boulders from the summits of great mountains that he gathered strength. So it was not by long resolutions and continuous talk that such men as Gen. O. O. Howard, General Armstrong, President Cravath, E. H. Ware, Booker Washington and others who have been preparing the race for the duties of its new citizenship, have lifted it thus far in its onward progress. They have been doers, rather than talkers, and as they toiled thousands of New England's matrons were stinting them-

selves of the comforts of life that they might send a few pennies to the missionary workers in the Southland. Many of them have cut off the luxuries from their tables to contribute to Negro education. Here is an example for us. The white missionaries are leaving the field. There must be others to take their places. The South does not object to Negro education by Negroes. The harvest is ripe, the field is white; let us go in and gather—gather for time, gather for eternity!

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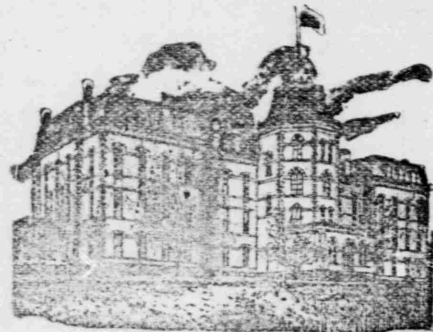
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